Mandy Silverman founded Mandylicious in 2013 in Sharon, MA. Since then, she has created over 300 unique challah and babka recipes and has developed a worldwide following, including over 25,000 Instagram followers. In addition to selling challah and teaching classes, she loves sharing her recipes and tips, and supporting others who want to make their own challah.

First, using a honey-spiced dough recipe, Mandy will demonstrate how to stuff your challah braids with two holiday-themed fillings. She will then share her surprisingly easy method of braiding and making a round challah. Don’t miss this unique opportunity and don’t forget to bring all of your challah questions. Recipes will be provided.

The Mandylicious Story
By Josefin Dolesten / JTA

Mandy Silverman remembers being scared of the kitchen as a child. “There was a constant joke in my house growing up that I would mess up instant iced tea,” she recalled in a

Not Your Bubbe’s Challah
“ChallahDay” Baking with Mandylicious!

On Monday, September 14 from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes the Challah Guru, Mandy Silverman of Mandylicious Challah, as she shares some favorite recipes and tips for making challah for the holidays that will truly tickle your dinner table to the next level.

As the saying goes, “birds of a feather flock together,” but this year, our flock in the Berkshires and beyond will be celebrating the High Holy Days in our own spaces, coming together online or socially distanced. But instead of feeling sore, let yourself soar — flying solo can also be a beautiful thing if you’re moving in a good direction, like this bird in flight above Kibbutz Lotan in the Arava Valley of Southern Israel, a migration hub. As Emily Dickinson wrote: “Hope is the thing with feathers.”

“The Future of Microfinance”
Economists Paul DiLeo and Ira Lieberman to present on development finance and empowering entrepreneurs and small businesses worldwide

On Thursday, September 24 from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes economists Paul DiLeo and Ira Lieberman, who will talk about the subject of the new book they co-edited (along with Todd A. Watkins and Anna Kanze), The Future of Microfinance.

The first provider of microfinance services to receive attention was the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, started in 1983 by Muhammad Yunus, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for his accomplishments in 2006. From the book description: “Over the past four decades, microfinance — the provision of loans, savings, and insurance to small businesses and entrepreneurs shut out of traditional capital markets — has grown from a niche service in Bangladesh and a few other countries to a significant global source of economic development.”

High Holy Days 5781
High hopes for a happy, healthy, and peaceful year

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Tzedakah Sunday Thank You!
Thank you to the hundreds of community members who answered the call and made a gift during our Tzedakah Sunday outreach. Together we raised over $100,000!

Thank You to These Superhero Volunteers:
Rabbi Reflection

Following a Path Toward Redemption When the Way is Unfamiliar

By Rabbi Barbara Cohen

I saw a bald eagle this morning and I wonder what it saw. High atop the dead pinnacle of a living tree, the eagle sat perching down and I wondered what the world looked like from up there. I was floating in a kayak in the very early rising light and mist on Laurel Lake, no other humans in sight, and the eagle’s ability to see clearly, through the air, into the mists, was searching for and to wait patiently for it, filled me with a longing to be that focused, that on mission, to know the world that I inhabit. Most of us had a misconception before the pandemic that we could plan ahead, maintaining the illusion that things would always continue to operate by recognizable principles and that when life didn’t do what we expected, that there would be some well-worn pathways to getting back on track. Now…not so much.

The word ‘unprecedented’ has been so exhausted to describe things that have been going on for the last few years. Some people, with the truism of braggadocio, assert that things have never been this great, big, fantastic and no one has ever done better, been smarter, known everything…even more than the experts, no matter which field is being discussed. Others, with the breathlessness of anxious incredulity, are saying nothing like this has ever been done before…challenging the long-established social contract and the very foundations of our demo-cratic and constitutional history. It is not just the word ‘unprecedented’ that is exhausted. Everyone I speak with both casually and in pastoral conversation is so tired that it is hard to find a way to replenish our energy, especially under the circumstances of COVID-19 restrictions. Remember what a good hug from a friend did for our spirits? A handshake when we met a new person? A meal out in a favorite or new restaurant? These antidotes to weariness are no longer available to us. How about breathing your own expired carbon dioxide as a steady diet? What’s that doing to our brains and tissues over the long run? COVID brain is affecting everyone and because this situation is ‘unprecedented’, no one knows what the long-term effects of this expiration of exchange irregularity will leave in its wake.

Our tradition comes to the rescue. Although most of us will be sharing our High Holy Days online, we are called upon to FOCUS. On ourselves, what it was, what it is, what it will be. On our relationships, and the ways that we interact with our inner higher sense of self and our connection with the Divine, however we each understand that Unknowable. We are asked to reflect and ponder who we have been, who we are and who we would hope to become in the year that is unfolding before us.

Ultimately, although we pray this year in (virtual) community, it is as if we are praying alone. The demands of the High Holy Days, the ten Days of Awe, are a solitary journey.

Helping Them Stay Available, Accessible, and Ready

Dear Friends at the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires:

On behalf of everyone at the Elizabeth Freeman Center, I want to thank you for your donation.

We are in very dangerous times right now. The very necessary steps we are taking to stop the spread of the coronavirus also create the very conditions that affect everyone and because this situation is ‘unprecedented’, no one knows what the long-term effects of these expansions of exchange irregularities will leave in its wake.

We are here. Our offices and shelter are open. Our 24/7 hotline and emergency services continue. We are helped survivors get protection orders and we continue our counseling and advocacy. We are providing in-person and remote services. We are available, accessible, and ready.

Your donation helps make this possible. Truly, THANK YOU!

Sincerely,

Janis Broderick, Executive Director
Elizabeth Freeman Center
Pittsfield

Putting “Thank You For Your Service” Into Action

Dear Jewish Federation of the Berkshires:

On behalf of Soldier On, and the veterans we serve, thank you for your generous gift to the Soldier On food pantry.

By putting “thank you for your service” into action, you have joined us in our mission to end homelessness among the brave men and women who pledged their lives for our freedom. Your support and generosity are helping us change the end of the story for at-risk and homeless veterans.

Soldier On relies on compassionate people like you to achieve our mission to end homelessness among our military veterans. Your donation goes a long way to assisting us in developing an affordable, supportive permanent housing, in addition to impacting our programs that our veterans deserve.

Sincerely,

Bruce J. Buckley, Chief Executive Officer
Soldier On
Pittsfield

Letters to the Editor

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Sincerely,

Bruce J. Buckley, Chief Executive Officer
Soldier On
Pittsfield

Supporting a Mission of Youth Development and Empowerment

Dear Jewish Federation of the Berkshires,

Thank you so much for the recent donation in support of Railroad Street Youth Project. Since its founding, RSYP continues to serve a vital role in our community, empowering young people to find their voices and unique identities in the world, follow their passions, and successfully negotiate the often-difficult transition to adulthood. Through RSYP, our constituents explore and develop ideas and projects which enrich their lives, the lives of their peers, and our community as a whole.

In the past year alone, RSYP served over 800 youths in South County through programs like our drop-in center, the Youth Operational Board, apprentice-ships, mentoring, sexual health education the South County Community Health Coalition.

Your gift is particularly significant during the current pandemic, which has highlighted both the intense need and the incredible resilience of our community’s youth. Even when faced with increased feelings of isolation, anxiety, and depression, they are eager to connect, learn, and succeed.

Without your support for our mission of youth development and empowerment, none of this would be possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Amanda Timpone, Executive Director
Railroad Street Youth Project
Great Barrington

MORE LETTERS, on page 4

The color photography in this issue of the Berkshire Jewish Voice is made possible through the generosity of Bob and Elaine Baum, honorary publishers. The staff of the Federation and the BJV are deeply grateful.
In My View

Support the Berkshire Jewish Voice with a voluntary subscription to your Jewish community newspaper

By Albert Stern / BJV Editor

We had just about put the March/April edition of the Berkshire Jewish Voice to bed— an issue filled with Passover news and advertising and a front page “save the date” for Federation’s Super Sunday on May 17— when the pandemic hit. With everything up in the air, we made some space on the front page for an important notice warning that due to the evolving response to coronavirus, some programs and events that were to be held this spring may have been canceled or postponed after our press deadline.

As it turned out, all the programs listed in that paper were canceled. So was Super Sunday. And so, too, sorts/ands, was Passover, at least the kind of Pesach celebrations most of us are accustomed to. Confronted with crisis, Federation leadership turned on a dime, and did a bang-up job of raising emergency funds and reassigning resources so that necessary services reached those most in need. We marshaled volunteers from the community to deliver meals, developed programming for adults and our PJ Library families, connected with our local congregations, reached out to the wider community, kept the office running smoothly, made sure our social worker reached the folks who need her services, and tackled the daunting task of sustaining our annual campaign in a time of great uncertainty.

As for the Berkshire Jewish Voice, it is one of the tools the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires has to communicate, in good times and bad, the breadth of its work to our community—which includes full-time residents, seasonal residents, and visitors seeking Jewish connection.

This publication’s revenues do not cover all its costs, and so your financial help as voluntary subscribers is essential in our efforts to bring you meaningful, positive, and entertaining stories both about and by your neighbors, as well as Jews around the world. Since the start of the pandemic, advertising revenue has dropped, and Super Sunday and other events that support this publication have been canceled, those physical and psychological distances can seem extreme. The Jewish Berkshires are thinking about this strange time we are all living through.

In the spirit of Passover, readers answered 4 questions we posed about how their lives had changed during the pandemic. Here are four of their responses.

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In an article that appeared in the Los Angeles Jewish Journal in mid-summer, I wrote on a subject that struck a nerve: the Jewish commitment to community within the pandemic, when so many of our interactions have become virtual. With the approaching High Holy Days, this issue is so vital to the survival of Judaism, I am expanding on that thought in this open letter.

When we are forced to be separated, the choice of “opting out” of community becomes tempting. Not seeing one another understand-ably diminishes some of the attachment that comes with being physically present. But when temptation leads us away from strengthening the Jewish spirit, that is the exact moment we should sprint in the opposite direction.

Many parents wonder how to teach their children the value of community. They ask how children will understand what it means to be something bigger than themselves — part of a greater cause — and feel the essence of being Jewish. There is no greater way of imparting this lesson than with the following: Show them. Your actions pave the way for every decision they will make in the future.

There are terms that are thrown around in an unfortunate way: “opting out” or “taking a break.” In choosing whether or not to belong to a synagogue or support nonprofit institutions, many of us are deciding to take a “year off.” Jewish professionals across the world are reaching out to colleagues and peers, understanding that if enough people decide to opt out, the Jewish world will never look the same. It will not have a solid foundation to rebuild and reconstruct in the innovative, vibrant, spiritually uplifting ways we so desperately need. Every person who decides to “sit this one out” means chipping away at the Jewish homes thousands rely upon for comfort, solace, celebration, companionship, and connection.

The COVID-19 era has devastated the world. It has taken away lives. It has left others stricken financially, mentally, and emotionally, and has impaired people’s health. Many cannot afford to join our communities, and these are the members who most need support and feel our love — fellow Jews who need our emotional and financial help. But for those who question the spiritual nourishment of online services, feel disconnected without in-person gathering, and have the means to continue to join sacred communities, my plea is to you. Whether or not religious school will be in-person or online don’t teach their children the value of being a link in the chain of thousands of years of Jewish history. Staying a member of a community is a covenant — a promise that God can count on you to step up when your unique voice is needed. And if you find yourself not currently in a community, we welcome you to join one, strengthening all of our souls during these moments of great uncertainty and fear.

Rabbi Nicole Guzik

Thank You Federation for Generous Donations In Difficult Times From...

Thank you for your allocation this past March. As explained below, this support is important in terms of what it makes possible. It is also an expression of the underlying ties between our two organizations. On both levels, we deeply appreciate your support.

As a recap of our work: ORT and its affiliated schools and programs in some 30 countries teach 360,000 students. In Israel, the focus is on serving students in underserved school systems as a long-term strategy for countering poverty. As you may know, Israel’s poverty rate is extraordinarily high in comparison with other developed countries. ORT’s strategy for combating poverty in Israel seems especially compelling in an economy that is so tied to high-tech. The results (measured by such data as improved success rates on the bagrut exam) are impressive.

Elsewhere in the world — the successor countries to the Soviet Union, other countries in Europe, Latin America and even Singapore — ORT schools attract students for their excellence in general studies but then provide Jewish content in both classroom studies and extracurricular activities. These are primarily non-observant Jews whose identity is at risk. The impact: deepened engagement in the Jewish life including other Jewish activities for teenagers, increased Aliyah rates, and basic family observance (things as simple as challah making).

At the center of these activities, our education experts provide curricula, consultation, teacher training, and cross-national summer school, competitions, and other educational programs. Some of these activities – consultation, teacher training, curricula development – have been especially needed during the coronavirus crisis. In addition, ORT has provided laptops for students and teachers for home use. Of course, this work and the resulting impact depend on basic institutional funding from the Berkshires and other Federations and donors. I look forward to reporting back to you – both in data and hopefully through Zoom.

In the meantime, thank you so much.

Sincerely,
James M. Lodwe, Senior Development Officer
World ORT
New York, NY
Your Federation Presents

MANDYLYNIOUS, continued from page 1

phone interview with JTA in 2019. But a quick glance at her Instagram feed reveals how things have changed. Her more than 25,000 followers have come to rely on her to post photos of mouthwatering and whimsical challah creations with flavors such as red velvet and marshmallow hot chocolate.

Since starting Mandylicious Challah in 2013, Silverman has seen her enterprise grow both locally – delivering some 50 loaves every week in Massachusetts, a Boston suburb – and internationally, dispensing challah-baking advice to people as far away as France, Peru and Thailand.

She spends about two days baking every week and an additional half a day on making deliveries on Friday before Shabbat.

Silverman is among a growing number of home bakers making a business out of their love of all things challah. Most post their interpretations of the traditional braided Shabbat and holiday loaves on social media, and reach local customers through word of mouth.

Silverman is entirely self-taught. The Orthodox baker started baking challah 13 years ago and started to experiment by decorating loaves with sprinkles and stuffing others with meat. In October 2013, at the urging of her friends, she started selling the challah locally.

A month later, for Thanksgiving, Silverman posted a photo on social media of a turkey-shaped challah with a pumpkin-flavor filling. The photo was shared widely, leading people from nearby states to drive to Massachusetts to get their hands on one.

"Somehow that picture got very popular, so my business got very recognized," she said.

Since then, Silverman has been slowly gaining customers.

"I got all the way to 250 [orders] for Rosh Hashanah," she said. "At that point, I was like, ‘I’m so sorry! I hate telling people no.’"

Silverman sells her loaves for $85 to $181, depending on flavor and size. But she says money isn’t the reason she does it. "It’s enough that I feel it’s worth my time, but it’s definitely not the main source of income for my house," said Silverman, whose husband works in marketing. "The payment is so much more than money. It’s helping people, being a part of their lives."

Berkshire Jewish Voice • jewishberkshires.org

Volunteers Are Vital!

Can you help with Rosh Hashanah gift bags?

By Susan Frisch Lehrer / Coordinator of Volunteers

We know that many of our seniors are still isolated and we want to bring them a special treat before the High Holidays. Volunteers are needed to deliver Rosh Hashanah gift bags to our seniors at home and in facilities across the Berkshires. Please let us know if you can assist with this important mitzvah.

The bags may be picked up at our Federation office, 196 South Street, Pittsfield, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on:

• Tuesday, September 15
• Wednesday, September 16
• Thursday, September 17

We ask that all volunteers wear masks (during pickup and delivery) and ring the front door bell of our office. You may deliver at your convenience. Please contact me at slehrer@jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360, ext. 14 to let us know of your availability. Thank you!

Sculptor of Children’s Souls: Janusz Korczak

On Thursday, September 10 from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m., join Marcia Talmage Schneider as she talks about her book Janusz Korczak: Sculptor of Children’s Souls. She’ll tell the tragic story of Dr. Korczak, a Polish Jewish educator, children’s author, and pedagogue known as Pan Doktor (“Mr. Doctor”) or Stary Doktor (“Old Doctor”). After spending many years working as director of an orphanage in Warsaw, he refused sanctuary repeatedly and stayed with his orphans when the entire population of the institution was sent from the Ghetto to the Treblinka extermination camp by the Nazis in 1942.

At press time, all Jewish Federation of the Berkshires programs were scheduled to be presented via Zoom or other platforms – please check your emails from Federation to find the necessary links, or visit our calendar of events online at www.jewishberkshires.org.

Marcia Talmage Schneider pursued Judaic Studies at New York University, as well as at Hebrew University in Israel and the Jewish Theological Seminary. She lived in Israel and was an educator for 40 years in both Jewish day schools and in New York City public schools.

Upon retirement, she went to Israel where she traced Korczak’s legacy through firsthand interviews with ten graduates of Korczak’s Jewish orphanage in Warsaw. It was these interviews which were the basis of her book Janusz Korczak: Sculptor of Children’s Souls. Talmage Schneider was one of the founding members of the Janusz Korczak Association of the United States. She presented at the International Korczak Association in Warsaw talking about the contents of her book and at Columbia University’s Department of Slavic Studies. She also wrote a chapter in Nurture, Care, Respect, and Trust: Transformative Pedagogy Inspired by Janusz Korczak.

She writes: “I’ll speak about how I first encountered Korczak’s story, sharing his history and that of the ten people whom I interviewed for the book (by the way, only one is still alive today in Tel Aviv). I’ll recount their telling of what it was like to live in the orphanage, how Korczak’s philosophy, methods and personality influenced them in their family and professional lives.”

A Grief Sublime

In conversation with Beth Robbins and Matt Tannenbaum

On Thursday, October 1 from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m., Matt Tannenbaum of The Bookstore in Lenox will speak with Beth Robbins about her memoir A Grief Sublime, which is about her life following the sudden, tragic death of her husband in an automobile accident.

At press time, all Jewish Federation of the Berkshires programs were scheduled to be presented via Zoom or other platforms – please check your emails from Federation to find the necessary links, or visit our calendar of events online at www.jewishberkshires.org.

After the sudden death of her husband – Steve “Sprootman” Meyerowitz – of nearly 30 years, author Beth Robbins turned to writing for comfort. And to Keats, Whitman, Melville, and Dickinson. What began as a mourning rite for a grieving widow eventually transformed into a lyrical memoir of childhood, marriage, grief, and ultimately resurrection.

In 1993, Tannenbaum lost his wife to cancer, becoming a single dad to his two young daughters, ages 7 and 3. He says he entered a time of grief for which he had little experience. In that time, his family and that of Robbins and Meyerowitz became close. “It’s an honor to sit with Beth now, these many years later, to speak of loss and grief,” says Tannenbaum, “as we have both lived in that place, knowing something of its landscape.”

Join Robbins and Tannenbaum for a conversation about life, love, grief, and connection. They will speak about the loss of a spouse, creative engagement and the way it helps, the gifts of loss, poetry, and humor. Robbins will do a reading of short readings from her book.

For further information on all Jewish Federation of the Berkshires programs, please call Nancy Maurice Rogers, Program Director, at (413) 442-4360, ext. 15.

Mandy Silverman

Berkshire Roofing & Gutter Co.
413-298-1029 www.berkshirecoop.com

Your availability. Thank you!
How Grandchildren of Holocaust Survivors and 3GNY Work Intergenerationally

On Monday, October 5 from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m., Leora Klein and Farah Kraus of 3GNY, a group composed of the grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, will lead a panel discussion of five educators about how grandchildren of Holocaust survivors can effectively educate the next generation to ensure that future generations hear actual stories of their grandparents’ survival.

At press time, all Jewish Federation of the Berkshires programs were scheduled to be presented via Zoom or other platforms - please check your emails from Federation to find the necessary links, or visit our calendar of events online at www.jewishberkshires.org.

From the 3GNY website: “As a living link, we preserve the legacies and the lessons of the Holocaust. Our mission is to educate diverse communities about the perils of intolerance and to provide a supportive forum for the descendants of survivors. We ensure that future generations will hear actual stories of our grandparents’ survival, so that others can experience the human face of the Holocaust, as well as understand its details. We provide the legacy, testimony and context for how this event is viewed and discussed today.”

To accomplish these goals, 3GNY creates forums where members meet, learn, connect and share ideas. Founded in 2005 with a group of six, 3GNY’s membership now exceeds 2,000. From the website: “We have diverse programs, including museum tours, film screenings, theater engagements, discussion groups, book readings, visits and dialogue with survivors, Shabbat dinners, Jewish cultural events, intergenerational gatherings, genealogy workshops and field trips.”

Leora Klein is the grandchild of four Holocaust survivors and the first American in her family. She is a founding member of 3GNY and ran WEDU (We Educate) for five years. Leora worked at The Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, where she led guided tours helping students navigate their first introduction to the Holocaust. She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, where she received her BA. After completing her MA in English and Comparative Literature at Columbia, Leora taught middle school and high school English Language and Literature at the Abraham Joshua Heschel School. She is currently on the Heschel Holocaust Commemoration Committee.

Farah Kraus is the grandchild of two Holocaust survivors, Eva and Harry Kostre. She initially became involved with 3GNY in 2010 to participate in the WEDU program. She is continually amazed at the insightful and thoughtful responses from the students she speaks to. Farah majored in Finance and Business Economics at Indiana University. She currently works in her family accounting practice and lives in Brooklyn.

Your Federation Dollars at Work

Federation Partner JDC’s Coronavirus Response – Global Impact

The JDC (American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee) is the leading Jewish humanitarian organization and they lead the Jewish community’s response to crises around the world. As a Federation partner and beneficiary, JDC helps put our community’s timeless Jewish value of mutual responsibility into action, saving lives and advancing Jewish life across the globe.
### September 4–18, 2020
Sale prices with your Stop & Shop card only.

### Stop & Shop

#### Deals
- **2/$3** Stop & Shop Cooking Carrots
  - 2 lb. bag
  - 4413074

- **2/$6** Gunter’s Honey Bear
  - 12 oz. bear
  - 4508518

- **$4.99** Challah Bread
  - Bag
  - 4414020

### Everything for your Rosh Hashanah table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jumbo Pomegranate</td>
<td>$2.99/ea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manischewitz Egg Noodles</td>
<td>5/$5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manischewitz Matzo Ball or Matza Ball &amp; Soup Mix</td>
<td>5/$5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kedem Grape or Sparkling Grape Juice</td>
<td>2/$6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Season Bone-In Sardines</td>
<td>3/$5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yehuda or Rekaach Yahrezeit Memorial Candle</td>
<td>3/$2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kedem Apple Juice</td>
<td>$1.79/ea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gefen Honey Cake</td>
<td>2/$7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gefen Honey Cake</td>
<td>2/$7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tabatchnick Chicken Broth</td>
<td>3/$7</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Additional Promotions
- **FREE** Kedem Tea Biscuits
- **$1 off** with coupon $5.10 purchase

### Valid Sept. 4–20, 2020
The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires wishes all a happy, healthy, and peaceful 5781.

Due to the ongoing coronavirus restrictions and protocols, most of our local congregations will observe this year's High Holy Days largely or entirely online. The schedules and events listed were provided by local congregations in mid-August; please contact the congregations directly for more information about:

- Connecting online
- Ticketing fees and deadlines
- Registration requirements and deadlines
- Confirmation of times and events
- Socially-distant in-person events
- Details about other planned holiday season programming that may not be listed.

The congregational directory with website and contact information is on page 9.

Candle lighting and havdalah times are for Pittsfield and were taken from the Hebcal calendar.

**L’Shana Tova!**

### High Holy Day Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Candle Lighting</th>
<th>Havdalah</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selichot</td>
<td>Saturday, September 12 at nightfall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erev Rosh Hashanah</td>
<td>Friday, September 18</td>
<td>6:40 p.m.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosh Hashanah – First Day</td>
<td>Saturday, September 19</td>
<td>7:39 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosh Hashanah – Second Day</td>
<td>Sunday, September 20</td>
<td>7:37 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre</td>
<td>Sunday, September 27</td>
<td>6:24 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erev Sukkot</td>
<td>Monday, September 28</td>
<td></td>
<td>7:23 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sukkot – First Day Yom Tov</td>
<td>Friday, October 2</td>
<td>6:02 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sukkot – Second Day Yom Tov</td>
<td>Saturday, October 3</td>
<td>7:14 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sukkot – Chol HaMoed</td>
<td>Sunday, October 4</td>
<td>7:12 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yom Kippur Rabbah</td>
<td>Monday, October 5 – Thursday, October 8</td>
<td>6:03 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shemini Atzeret</td>
<td>Saturday, October 10</td>
<td>7:02 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simchat Torah</td>
<td>Sunday, October 11</td>
<td></td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires recently approved $12,000 in High Holiday Access grants to support technology upgrades, support, and other services to help our local congregations offer community members the widest access possible to High Holy Day services and experiences. Grantees to date include: Chabad of the Berkshires, Congregation Beth Israel, Hevreh of Southern Berkshires, Knesset Israel, and Temple Anshe Amunim.

### Hevreh of Southern Berkshire

Responding to the events of this year, different in so many ways, this Reform congregation in Great Barrington has decided to open its services to all regardless of payment or donation. All services, to be led by Rabbi Neil P.G. Hirsch and Rabbi Jodie Gordin, will be streamed on Hevreh's website, at hevreh.org/holidays. There, you'll find a full list of events and how to access each.

Some will require prior registration, some will be streamed directly online.

“As Hevreh continues to add opportunities to aid all in feeling a piece of holiness from Selichot through Simchat Torah,” says Rabbi Hirsch, “be sure to check our website regularly for updates and new information.”

### Temple Anshe Amunim

Temple Anshe Amunim in Pittsfield will celebrate the Jewish High Holy Days with a full schedule of services – clergy, staff, and lay leaders have prepared virtual and socially distant experiences for participants. Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch will lead with prayer and inspiration. Cantor Rachel Shusky will return as cantorial soloist this year, singing ancient melodies and modern compositions.

TAA will feature the voices of its volunteer choir, coordinated and conducted by dedicated music director, Dr. Alan Gold.

TAA will also prepare robust materials to enable personal prayer at home.

Says Rabbi Liz: “All are welcome to celebrate the holiday’s second day with ‘Rosh Hashanah in Nature.’ This innovative experience offers an opportunity for participants to connect spiritually with nature. Please come in appropriate and comfortable attire, and watch our webpage for the most up-to-date information about this socially distant, in-person gathering.”

Please visit the TAA website, or contact the Temple office by email or by phone to arrange for an all-inclusive access pass.

Says Rabbi Liz: “We welcome all who wish to join us for the holidays to do so.”

### Congregation Beth Israel

Congregation Beth Israel’s online services will be led by Rabbi Rachel Barenblat. This Reform congregation will use Days of Awe: the mezuzah put together by Rabbi Barenblat. All in-person events will be masked and socially distanced.

### Services

#### Selichot – See story on page 15 for details.

- **Erev Rosh Hashanah** – A seder at 6 p.m.
- **Rosh Hashanah 1st Day** – Service at 10 a.m.
- **Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day** – Family service at 9 a.m.
- **Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre** – Service at 7:30 p.m.
- **Yom Kippur** – Family service at 9 a.m. Service at 10:30 a.m. Yizkor at 3:30 p.m. Neilah at 5 p.m.

#### Temple Anshe Amunim

- **Yom Kippur – Morning meditation at 9 a.m.**

#### Congregation Beth Israel

- **Rosh Hashanah 1st Day** – Torah study at 9 a.m. Congregational prayer experience at 10 a.m.

#### Selichot – See story on page 15 for details.

- **Erev Rosh Hashanah** – “Pre-neg,” candle lighting, and holiday greeting at 6:30 p.m. Evening prayer experience at 7 p.m.
- **Rosh Hashanah 1st Day** – Torah study at 9 a.m. Congregational prayer experience at 10 a.m.
- **Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day** – “Rosh Hashanah in Nature,” with tashlich at 10:30 a.m. – please visit TAA’s website for details on location.
- **Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre** – Pre-fast “dinner,” candle lighting, and holiday greeting at 6:30 p.m. Kol Nidre prayer experience at 7 p.m.
- **Yom Kippur** – Morning meditation at 9 a.m. Morning prayer experience at 10 a.m. Afternoon service led by Temple Youth at 3 p.m. Yizkor at 4 p.m. Neilah at 5 p.m., followed by break-the-fast virtual gathering.

### Services

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### Services

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- **Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day** – “Rosh Hashanah in Nature,” with tashlich at 10:30 a.m. – please visit TAA’s website for details on location.
Welcome to the Jewish Berkshires
Everyone is welcome to attend services and events at any of the organizations listed here.

Please call the organizations directly to confirm service times or to inquire about membership.

Learn more about our Jewish community and find great events on the community calendar at:

JEWISHERBERKSHIRES.ORG

HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES

Knesset Israel

Rabbi Barbara Cohen will lead all-online services from the Reconstructionist congregation’s historic building in Great Barrington. “Within the online structure, we are striving to create a unique experience with traditional and contemporary liturgical elements, singing, poetry, and prayer,” says Rabbi Cohen. “We will be offering the spiritual quality and meaningful experience that you have come to cherish from our Ahavath Sholom services in a more time-considerate way.”

Both Ahavath Sholom members and non-members need to register for services by email (casoffice15@gmail.com) or by mail (Congregation Ahavath Sholom, P.O. Box 464, Great Barrington, MA 01230).

SERVICES
Selichot – Study and service at 7 p.m.
Erev Rosh Hashanah – Service at 5:30 p.m.
Rosh Hashanah 1st Day – Service at 10 a.m. (90 minutes)
Kol Nidre – 6 p.m. (60 minutes)
Yom Kippur – Service at 10 a.m. (90 minutes)

Chabad of the Berkshires

Now in its 16th year, Chabad of the Berkshires welcomes all to its friendly traditional services at its Pittsfield location, which will be held in an outdoor tent this year. Co-directors Rabbi Levi and Sara Volovik say membership is not required - “According to tradition, at the New Year the Doors of Heaven are open – G-d accepts all prayers, from anyone. We open our doors, as well.”

However, an RSVP is required to participate. Due to COVID-19 precautions, space is limited and seats must be set according to social distancing requirements. Masks will be required. Family members from the same household will be able to sit together – all others must remain 6 feet apart.

Readings from the machzor (holiday prayer book) will be in Hebrew and English.

SERVICES
Rosh Hashanah 1st Day – Service at 10 a.m.
Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day – Same as Rosh Hashanah 1st Day, with Shofar at approximately 11 a.m.
Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre – Service at 6:30 p.m.
Yom Kippur – Service at 10 a.m. (Yizkor at 11:30 a.m.). Afternoon service and Ne’ilah at 5 p.m. (drinks and pre-packaged cookies to be served after services).

BERKSHIRE JEWISH CONGREGATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

Berkshire Minyan
Lay-led egalitarian minyan held at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Rd., Great Barrington, MA (413) 229-3618, berkshireminyan.org

Berkshire Hills Hadassah
P.O. Box 187, Pittsfield, MA (413) 443-4386. Berkshirehillshadassah@gmail.com

B’nai B’rith Lodge, No. 326
Chabad of the Berkshires
450 South St., Pittsfield, MA (413) 499-9899, jewisberkshires.com

Congregation Ahavath Sholom
Reconstructionist
North St., Great Barrington, MA (413) 528-4197, ahavathsholom.com

Congregation Beth Israel
Reform
53 Loiz St., North Adams, MA (413) 663-5830, chiweb.org

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire
Reform
270 State Rd., Great Barrington, MA (413) 528-6378, hevreh.org

Israel Philatelist Society
c/o Dr. Ed Hildtzer, (413) 447-7622

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires
196 South St., Pittsfield, MA (413) 442-4360, jewisberkshires.org

Jewish War Veterans
Commander Robert Waldheim
(413) 822-4546, sell14@aol.com

Knesset Israel
Conservative
16 Colt Rd., Pittsfield, MA (413) 445-8722, knessetisrael.org

Temple Anshe Amunim
Reform
26 Broad St., Pittsfield, MA (413) 442-5910, ansheamunim.org

“At a time that we usually integrate, we now have to be separate,” says Rabbi David Weiner, the spiritual leader of this egalitarian Conservative congregation in Pittsfield that over the summer developed an array of offerings that will give participants choices on how to navigate through this unusual holiday season.

He explains that his congregation will conduct streamlined services via Zoom, while also providing additional opportunities to meaningfully prepare for and then connect with the themes and spirit of the High Holy Days. Links to online classes, divrei Torah, music and video, and family programming will be sent out via email before and during the holidays.

Rabbi Weiner says that in normal years, immersion in a long formal service is what many people want and expect on the High Holy Days. This year, however, offers an opportunity to identify what one needs from these holidays, find a way to plug in, “and give what you want to give.” KI’s approach, which aligns with engagement strategies developed within the Conservative movement, will be to provide different ways to help participants develop a personal path through the season.

SERVICES
Yizkor for Yom Kippur will be conducted on Sunday, September 27 at 10:30 a.m.
Selichot – 6:15 p.m.
Erev Rosh Hashanah – Service at 5:45 p.m.
Rosh Hashanah 1st Day – Service Shaharit 8:30 a.m., Torah service approximately 9:15 a.m.
Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day – Morning same as Rosh Hashanah 1st Day, with shofar during Torah service. Family service at 3 p.m. Fastshlich at 4:15 p.m. (meet at KI, then to Pomeroy Avenue Bridge).
Yom Kippur/ Kol Nidre – 6:15 p.m.
Yom Kippur – Family service 9 to 10:30 a.m. Shaharit 11:15 a.m., with Torah Service after 12:15 p.m. Mincha at 4:30 p.m., Ne’ilah at 5:35 p.m. Tekiah Gedolah/Maariv/ Havdalah at 7:20 p.m.

JEWISHERBERKSHIRES.ORG
AGAWAM – A legacy giving initiative that supports the building of endowments with the goal of sustaining valued organizations and vibrant Jewish communities for the next generation and beyond announced today that it has leveraged more than $1 billion in legacy commitments.

In the eight years since the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF) launched LIFE & LEGACY®, sixty-three Jewish communities across the United States and Canada have secured almost 28,000 legacy commitments from 17,000 individuals to support 680 organizations. Of the $1 billion in commitments, more than $112 million has already been placed in endowments. Amid the pandemic and economic downturn, these commitments are even more critical to the long-term stability of vital Jewish organizations across North America.

In challenging times like these, endowments provide organizations with the financial stability they need to meet evolving needs. Legacy commitments guarantee that organizations become trusted resource providers, learn from, support and empower many generous and committed individuals and families to give back to the Jewish communities for years to come.

A Conversation with Arlene Schiff

Arlene Schiff, a Lenox resident and past executive director of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, took over the helm of the LIFE & LEGACY® program in 2013. In that time, she has crossed the country to work with Jewish communities on ensuring their futures through legacy giving. When she last spoke with the BJV in 2017, LIFE & LEGACY gifts totaling approximately $500 million had been secured, a figure that has since doubled.

The BJV asked her a few questions about the program’s success, as well as the current state of Jewish philanthropy.

BJV: Has it been easier getting people in over the last few years?

Schiff: Yes, in some ways because when we started, there were communities who were lined up who knew this was something they wanted to do and just didn’t know how to do it, and were looking for that support. Then, obviously, we gained momentum and more communities wanted to join once they saw that it worked. I would say that last year was a slow year. We had fewer new communities, and this year, we actually have no new starting this fall. That might happen in the pandemic, but also I think we’re running low on communities. Because we partner with national Jewish organizations and national Jewish organizations, it will filter down to the local level, and also that local organizations are filtering up. So given that our goal is to make legacy giving a social norm in their communities, overall we’ve decided to try to partner with some of the national organizations and it looks like we’ll be launching our first one of those this fall.

LIFE & LEGACY, continued on next page

Life Can Present Challenges

Sometimes, a little help along the way can make things easier

Our community social worker, Jill Goldstein, LCSW, offers case management, information/referral and consultation to help Jewish community members find support and access to services to help with such needs as:

- Coping with life’s transitions
- Aging and caregiving issues
- Relationship issues
- Adjustment to new living situation
- Living with illness
- Grief and loss
- Depression or anxiety

If you are struggling with one of these or other issues, Jill can help you find community resources to assist you. Jill has a Master’s degree in social work (MSW) and is licensed as an independent clinical social worker (LICSW).

If you or someone you know needs a little help, give us a call:

Jill Goldstein, MSW, LICSW
(413) 442-4360, Ext 17
j.goldstein@jfswm.org

All services are free and completely confidential.
LIFE & LEGACY, continued from previous page

We’re also starting to integrate [the Harold Grinspoon Foundation’s] JCamp 180 program, which has always had a legacy component. Now we’re merging the programs. We’re going to be offering camps the LIFE & LEGACY curriculum, which is a little different than what they’ve been doing in the past. We’re looking to take on new camps that have never done legacy through JCamp 180, and to also work with the camps that have been part of the program in the past on formalization. That is something they never did – moving the donor from a letter of intent to legally putting their commitment in place. Lastly, I would say we’re going to be exploring a variety of ways in which we can partner with the communities that we’ve been working with today that have completed the 4-year LIFE & LEGACY curriculum to see what we can do beyond that four years to make sure that legacy giving remains a priority in each community.

BJV: I’d like to turn to a broader question about the current state of Jewish philanthropy from your perspective. How do you see what’s going on now, and what might the long-term future hold?

Scheff: Well, I think that those people who are blessed with the capacity to give are giving and giving more because they see that the needs are greater. I don’t envision that changing. People may be reevaluating their giving. I’ve heard that some individuals who’ve given specifically to the Jewish community now, because of the pandemic or social justice issues, have chosen to include those causes in their philanthropic giving. Legacy giving will remain a priority. We know that the pandemic has led more people to think about planning for the future. More people are writing wills, more people are planning. People are a little worried – they’re feeling vulnerable and also don’t know what the future holds; and so more people are thinking about what they want to put in place should something happen to them.

It’s a great time actually to be having those conversations with loyal donors who have been giving to you annually for a number of years, to remind them that they can also leave a legacy. Given the economic situation there will be donors who, because they’ve lost their job or other reasons, aren’t able to give annually, but will have assets for legacy giving, which is how they might choose to participate until they are ready to give annually again.

We have so much to give them. It happens to everyone all the time: things don’t go according to plan. Sometimes it’s minor stuff, sometimes it’s big, like the infertility, special needs, and medical challenges we face. We all have to learn the skills to adapt.

Chavie Bruk will share her fascinating story, and explore the skills to adapt.

The Bruk family

Rising Above Race and Color

Meet Montana’s Chabad emissary, who is raising five adopted children in Big Sky Country

On Sunday, September 13 at 7:30 p.m., Chabad of the Berkshires welcomes Chavie Bruk who, along with her husband Rabbi Chaim Bruk, serves as Chabad’s emissary to Montana.

Via Zoom, she’ll share her remarkable story about raising five adopted children – one of mixed race, another with a rare genetic disorder – in Bozeman, a remote town noted for its livability and proximity to outdoor recreation areas.

The Bruks moved to Bozeman in 2009 to establish a Chabad outpost to serve the approximately 2000 Jews living in Montana. After adopting two infant daughters, the Bruks became a go-to source for information about adoption within the Chabad community, and subsequently added three more children to their family: Menny, who is biracial; Shoshanna, already a teen at the time of her adoption; and Chana Lea, who was born in 2017.

“When we found out that we couldn’t have children biologically, I accepted that,” Chavie said in an interview with Lubavitch International. “But I didn’t accept that we would never be parents. Every child who has come into our life is meant to be with us. We are an adoptive parent, and adoption within Jewish history, infertility, and what it has been like to raise a blended family within the Orthodox tradition in a vast state with not many Jewish residents.

Please check Chabad’s website, jewishberkshires.com, for more information and links to this online event.

WINGATE RESIDENCES AT MELBOURNE PLACE

Independent Living | Assisted Living | Memory Care

It’s hard to make senior living at Wingate Residences even better. But we’ve found a way.

2020 RENOVATIONS UNDERWAY

At Wingate Residences at Melbourne Place, we are breathing new life into our community through our beautifully designed renovations. These enhancements are designed with our residents in mind, offering new apartments, spacious outdoor lounging & kitchen, a year-round fire pit and more.

We understand the changing landscape of the environment and can assure you that our location takes top precautions to protect the health and safety of our residents and community.

Call to learn more or schedule a tour: 413.300.6044

ResidencesatMelbournePlace.com | 140 Melbourne Road, Pittsfield, MA 01201

LOCAL NEWS

Check out our website!

www.jewishberkshires.org

For calendar listings and events

Elul 5780/Tishrei 5781

Berkshire Jewish Voice • jewishberkshires.org

Page 11
DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS
YOUR IMPACT IS REAL
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN 2020

Affiliate with a Congregation.
You, the congregation, and the Jewish community benefit when you do.

- YOU GET the Jewish enrichment and spiritual nourishment you are seeking.
- YOU GET the rabbinical support you need in times of joy and sorrow.
- YOU RECONNECT with your community and your Jewish roots.
- YOU CAN PARTICIPATE in a variety of services, classes, and programs that keep Judaism alive and flourishing in Berkshire County.

- THE CONGREGATION IS THE INSTITUTION that has sustained the Jewish people for two millennia throughout the world. Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist, or Reform, the Jewish community wins when you join the congregation of your choice.

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires encourages you to affiliate.
GREAT BARRINGTON – Hevreh of Southern Berkshire’s new early childhood center (ECC) is now open to provide quality childcare and learning for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in an intimate, child-centered environment. The full-week program is open to children from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will be licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

Open to the community at large, the ECC is housed within Hevreh, a Reform Jewish synagogue.

Ellen Marcus, ECC director, writes that “Early childhood experiences provide the foundation for a child’s lifetime. Our play-based, emergent curriculum fosters exploration and cultivates children’s natural curiosity.”

In an interview with the BJV, she added: “There is a Jewish thread to our curriculum tied to three Jewish values that are, in fact, universal values: Talmud Torah, the instilling of curiosity and a love of learning; gemulit chassadim, the teaching of kindness, which totally dovetails with what an ECC should be doing; and derech eretz, teaching cooperation and community participation. Those are all foundational.”

Marcus says that Hevreh, where she has worked for three years, is embarking on this program after identifying a need for licensed childhood facilities generally throughout Western Massachusetts.

Visit the Department of Early Education’s website and search for a licensed facility within 20 miles of Great Barrington, she says, and you’ll be surprised how few there are.

“There are other ways of providing child care – somebody in the family can stay home or you can hire somebody to come into your home,” she says. But a licensed ECC is not about “simply ensuring the safety of your child, it’s much more – and the science is there to prove it. It’s so clear that this is the foundational stage for so much – brain science, social, emotional, and academic growth – across the board.”

Marcus reports that the congregation has planned for years, and fundraised in order to bring its classrooms up to code for very young children. Achieving its vision for the ECC was abetted by the input of Hevreh’s rabbis, Neil Hirsh and Jodie Gordon (also Hevreh’s director of education), both of whom have young children. The congregation decided it wanted to implement its own program, not one contracted through an outside corporate provider of day care services.

Marcus says that “when I came on board, I was taking this vision and establishing some of the practicalities. I was in the very fortunate position of being able to create something from the ground up.”

Enrollment of a child includes membership at Hevreh, which Marcus says will allow families to sustain a connection to the congregation until the children are old enough to enroll in Hebrew school.

Marcus shared the following information about what families might expect:

The characteristics that help create strong family ties – love, trust, time spent together, communication, appreciation for one another, healthy limits and more love – are the very same traits we seek to foster within our classroom community. Daily schedules are individualized in our Infant Room to best meet each child’s sleep and nutritional needs. A typical day in our Toddler Room and mixed-age Preschool Room provides an array of emergent curriculum activities and is structured to include time for Meeting, Choice, Snack, Outdoor Play, Story, Lunch and Quiet Time. Our Preschool curriculum incorporates kindergarten readiness skills within the play-based experiences.

In addition to our small group setting, we benefit from our spacious grounds. Hevreh’s “backyard” includes a fenced area for outdoor play as well as plenty of space to accommodate nature walks and outdoor activities.

The health and safety of our children and staff is paramount and we will be in full compliance with the Massachusetts EEC requirements to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. We have implemented procedures to help protect everyone’s well-being, including daily health screening prior to entry; adult use of masks and other PPE; frequent handwashing; cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing of play areas and supplies; physical distancing; staggered curbside drop-off and pick-up; and stable classroom groupings. Registration is underway. For more information, contact Ellen Marcus at emarcus@hevreh.org or (413) 528-6378. You can also find out more at hevreh.org/ECC.

Weekly Lunch N Learn Over Zoom, with Hevreh

On Wednesdays at 11:45 a.m. (September 9, 16, 23, & 30 and October 7, join Hevreh of Southern Berkshire for free Zoom classes at lunchtime.

Says Rabbi Neil Hirsh: “Our tradition teaches that when two (or more) sit together and discuss words of Torah, God dwells with them. Study is one of the many ways we as a Jewish community experience the sacred and the spiritual.”

Contact info@hevreh.org to receive the weekly Zoom link to participate.
Empire Frozen Turkey $2.99/lb

Tabatchnick Soup 2 for $4
14.5 to 15 oz, Select Varieties

Warm Wishes Bouquet $12.99
A soft, charming floral bouquet which exudes warmth and light in celebration of the season.

Lilly's Rugelach $4.99
12 oz, Chocolate, Cinnamon, Raspberry or Apricot

Kinem Tea Biscuits $3 for $2
4.2 oz, All Varieties

Gunter Honey Bear $2 for $5
12 oz

Kedem Sparkling Juice $3.29
All Varieties, 25.4 oz

Streit's Egg Bows Noodles $2 for $3
8 oz

Vita Wild Nova Salmon $4.49
3 oz, Previously Frozen

Chef's Kingdom Vegetable Kugel $6.99/lb
or Apple or Sweet Noodle Kugel

The Berkshire's Reform Congregations to Celebrate Selichot Together

On Saturday, September 12 at 8 p.m., Congregation Beth Israel, Temple Anshe Amunim, and Hevreh of Southern Berkshire will co-sponsor "Selichot: An Evening of Spiritual Preparation." From the congregations: "Selichot invites us to open our hearts as we prepare to welcome the new year. Join the rabbits of Reform congregations across Berkshire County for a heart-opening Selichot celebration. Our celebration will include havdalah, poetry, prayer, and music to help each of us move into the Days of Awe with intention. We invite you to set up a sacred space for yourself as you join us via Zoom, as well as paper and pen for some reflective writing."

Details about how to connect will be posted on each congregation's website. Please see page 9 for the congregational listings.

GREAT BARRINGTON – Hevreh of Southern Berkshire has announced that the first day of religious school for its students will be Sunday, September 13, and has shared its broader plan for Youth and Family Education programs for the 2020-2021 school year. "As we anticipate being able to gather in-person in limited ways," says Rabbi Jodie Gordon, "we will consider alternatives to the traditional grade-level specific classes. Our programming will take place using a camp-style model of units structured around age/developmental stage."

Rabbi Gordon explained how four learning goals this school year will guide students through the uncertainty and find the magic in Judaism:

- **Jewish Joy**
- **Hebrew Skills**
- **Self Care and Community Responsibility through a Jewish lens**
- **Building toward Justice**

"Our dedicated teaching faculty is ready to facilitate spaces where students can create and deepen relationships with near-peer groups," she adds "both in person when safe and in a virtual classroom (hybrid)."

For 3 and 4-year-olds, Tiny Talmidim serves as an entryway to a love of Jewish learning. All students K-12 are encouraged to sign up for Religious School, which encompasses cornerstone learning and the 8-12 grade confirmation class. Hebrew learners in 3-7 grades preparing for b’nai mitzvah can sign up for Hebrew skills and be placed with a teacher and/or cohort that will support their learning.

"Above all else, we hold our commitment to pikuah nefesh, the Jewish value of preserving life," adds Rabbi Gordon. "All decisions and possibilities will be considered with best practices from the Massachusetts Department of Health and CDC guidelines in mind."

To discuss your family’s needs and expectations for this school year, contact Rabbi Gordon at jgordon@hevreh.org or Jodie Friedman at jfriedman@hevreh.org.

To learn more and register, visit hevreh.org/family.

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Grant Deadline for Wassermann-Streit Y’DIYAH Memorial Fund, November 1

SHEFFIELD — The Wassermann-Streit Y’DIYAH Memorial Fund is currently accepting grant applications for projects that offer the general public the opportunity to gain knowledge of Judaism in a meaningful and enjoyable way. This might be through programs or material that illustrate traditional practices, holidays, music, art, literature, theater, cinema, documented history, etc.

The goal of the fund is to offer the public an understanding of traditional Judaism that might contribute to knowledge of differences while sharing commonalities inherent in all people, and to correct misconceptions and false notions leading to manifestations of bias.

Individuals, schools, libraries and other nonprofit organizations in Berkshire, Columbia (NY), northwest Litchfield (CT) and northeast Dutchess (NY) counties are invited to apply by November 1 at www.berkshiretaconic.org/YDIYAH.

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Hevreh’s Religious School Starts this September

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Berkshire Hills Hadassah wishes all
Shana Tovah!

"May your New Year’s blessings be as plentiful as the seeds of the pomegranate."

Join and support Hadassah
berkshirehillshadassah@gmail.com

Financial Assistance Available

No one could have anticipated the financial impact this pandemic would have. The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires has provided a safety net for our Jewish community for more than 80 years and we are here to help individuals and families through this difficult time.

The Federation is offering onetime financial assistance to help Jewish community members struggling with essential needs such as food, utilities, mortgage and rent. Additional critical needs may be considered. Interest free loans are also available.

Any Jewish community member who has been impacted financially by the pandemic may be eligible. You do not have to belong to a synagogue or be part of the Federation to apply. Requests will be assessed on a case by case basis and are per household. All inquiries regarding assistance will be kept strictly confidential.

To inquire about assistance please visit
jewishberkshires.org/covid19-assist
Alden “Elie” Hammerling, 79, kind, compassionate, supported local arts and culture.

Edwin F. Pitfield – Alden “Elie” Hammerling, 79, died late Saturday night, July 18. Born in Binghamton, New York on October 1, 1940 to Sol and Gertrude (Bernerstein) Hamerling, Elie was a kind and caring man, deeply committed to his family and his community. He genuinely loved people and found it easy to start a conversation with just about anyone. His openness engaged total strangers, as he would talk for hours, as if he was a natural person who treated everyone as you would an old friend. Getting someone to smile made his day, which explains why Elie has such an extensive circle of friends.

Elie met Myrna (Galler) Hammerling in 1957 while attending Wingate High School. Myrna was distributing band folders while Elie was looking at the schedule. Ed then began noticing that Elle had a big smile whenever she came around and Elie realized he had met his forever love. The two dated through high school, went to college together at Brooklyn College, and married on April 4, 1963. Elie and Myrna have been happily married for 54 years, enjoying their 57th wedding anniversary.

Elie earned his B.A. in 1962 from Brooklyn College and his M.S. in Administrative Medicine from Columbia University in 1970. From 1970 to 1976, he served as vice president, administrative services, at Roosevelt Hospital in Manhattan. Elie’s career path was born out of his passion to help make a difference within his community. Elie believed in laying out his ability to work with people to create collaborative solutions that affect real change in health care delivery.

During his college years, Elie was an accomplishing athlete. He was quite athletic. Standing 6’2”, he was known as a graceful left-hander. Ed also later earned the title of Collegiate Doubles Handball Champion of New York with his partner (now Hollywood director) Joel Zwick. In addition, Elie enjoyed being a sports writer for the school newspaper, The Olympian. In 1979, Elie, Myrna and their two young children relocated from Brooklyn to Pittsfield to begin a new job and a new life in the Berkshires. Elie was vice president, administrative services at Berkshire Medical Center for a decade, where he helped with the transition to Berkshire Health Systems. In 1986, Elie became the associate director of administrative services at Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth, a residential treatment program for boys. He both provided oversight for the residential health education program and directed the James Bell Training Institute to provide core education for mental health professionals. From 1998-2004, Elie founded and directed Elie Moon Seminars, a company dedicated to delivering educational seminars and workshops nationally for mental health professionals, educators, and parents. After retirement, Elie continued to spend his time and energy volunteering to promote the town of Pittsfield and foster local arts and music, as well as support local Jewish education.

One of Elie’s many passions was supporting local arts and cultural events in the Berkshires. His efforts both as a writer and as an active member of the community were instrumental in increasing awareness and appreciation for the arts. Elie’s passion for the arts continued into his retirement, making a significant impact on the cultural life of Pittsfield for years to come.

Elie loved his music and was in no way limited to any one genre. Whether there was jazz, classical, Motown, reggae, or funk on the radio, Elie could always find the beat. He put this passion into action for the community’s benefit, serving as the chair of the board of MusicWorks, which brought Boston Symphony Orchestra artists to the Berkshires to perform in the off-season. Elie also served as the chairman of the board of Simac Associates, a Jewish day school that he helped create in Pittsfield. In 2009. Elie was awarded the Hannah Senesh Award to recognize his passion for Jewish education and volunteer leadership. From 2012-2014, Elie chaired the board of the "Rimon: Resource Center for Jewish Spirituality" led by Rabbi Kaya Stern. Elie also served on the board of the "I'mond: Information Exchange," an organization focused on Jewish spiritual leadership.

Elie was survived by his beloved spouse and best friend; his son, Eric Hammerling (wife Andrea) and his daughter, Jennifer (wife Susan). His two nieces, Sarah Apkin and Judith Apkin, his sister, Joan Kohn and her partner Cathy Surack of Dallas, TX and moved with cancer that began this spring. Elie was pre-deceased by his sister Joan Kohn Schaffer.

Elie’s passion was building and growing nonprofit organizations and helping people and philosophized on land stewardship and the accomplishments was helping the Massachusetts Audubon Society. He was a piece of highland and wetland land in Plainfield for nature conservation and he worked to set up agricultural preservation with the Central Street Compact, securing a corridor of open field, meadows, and farmland in Plainfield, the town he fell in love with on a chance drive with his girls 38 years ago. He was committed to sharing his ideas of the interconnectedness to each other and the planet which he explored in his book “Planets We Are One.”

Education is surived by his wife of 57 years, Myrna (Galler); daughters Lisa Margaret Kohn (husband Warner Simon Simonds) and Rachel Stephanie Kohn (husband Donald Joseph Bakier). He was pre-deceased by his sister Joan Kohn Schaffer.

Elie was kind, compassionate, and loved by his family and community during his entire life. The two were together at Brooklyn College, dated through high school, were together at Brooklyn College, and are always together for 62 years, recently being at each other’s side, whom they called “Saba.” Elie is survived by his wife Myrna, his brother and brother-in-law, Joyce and Steve Laitman, their sons, Michael and and Jim Laitman, and his sister-in-law Lynda Galler.

The family would like to express appreciation to the dedicated support and care at BMC Cancer Center and Berkshire Hospice. Donations can be sent to the “Hamerling Fund” at Banez Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield MA 01201, or to your favorite cause. A graveside service took place on July 20. An announcement will be made about a gathering to celebrate Elie’s life with his family and community during a safer time.
Connecting with Community

Nourish Your Body, Mind, and Soul!

In response to coronavirus guidelines...

As of press time, all in-person Connecting With Community programming has been canceled. For the most up-to-date information and details on virtual programming, please visit our website www.jewishberkshires.org to sign up for our eblasts to receive a weekly listing of online opportunities.

Meals-on-Wheels & Meals to Go – Advance Reservation Required

Kosher lunch will be prepared on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Meals to go will be ready by noon for pickup at the Knesset Israel kitchen door, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield.

All meals-on-wheels will be delivered by Federation volunteers in the early afternoon.

Please call (413) 442-2200 no later than 9 a.m. to reserve your meal for pickup and to arrange delivery if standing instructions are not in place. All are welcome to reserve meals for pick-up, although delivery may be limited in certain circumstances.

The menus listed below are planned, but may be modified depending on availability of ingredients. When making a reservation, please inform us if a person in your party has a food allergy.

Donations may be made to the Knesset Israel (https://www.ansheamunim.org/), or Jewish Services of Berkshire County.

What’s for Lunch?

# Dairy Free, ** Gluten Free Main Entrée

For more information on specific programs please see “Your Federation Presents” section of this paper.

SEPTEMBER

Monday, 7 ........... Closed for Labor Day

Tuesday, 8 ............ Bean and cheese enchilada case- role**, yellow rice, salad, Mexican corn, white bread, chimichurri, and tea.

Thursday, 10 .......... Fresh fish**, juice of chef’s choice, noodle kugel, broccoli, salad, oat bread, mandarin oranges, and tea.

Monday, 14 .......... Asian flavored turkey tenderloin**#, miso soup, rice, Oriental blend vegetables, breads TBA, chocolate chip cookies (parve), and tea.

Tuesday, 15 .......... Sloppy Joes**, corn, green beans, hamburger buns, chocolate chip cookies (parve), and tea.

Thursday, 17 ............ Roasted chicken**, noodle soup, appetizer cuts n’ tips, salad, oven roasted potatoes, Challah, apple dumplings, and tea.

Monday, 21 .......... Veal steak**#, salad, noodles, mixed vegetables, pumpernickel bread, grapes, and tea.

Tuesday, 22 .......... Spaghetti & meat sauce#, Italian blend vegetables, salad, Italian bread, applesauce, and tea.

Thursday, 24 ............ Salmon**, salad, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, farmer’s loaf, peas, and tea.

Monday, 28 .......... Closed for Yom Kippur

Tuesday, 29 .......... Cheese ravioli caserole with mushroom, broccoli, salad, garlic bread, fruit cocktail, and tea.

OCTOBER

Thursday, 1 ............ Black bean burgers with cheese, juice of chef’s choice, corn medley, brown rice, hamburger buns, cookies, and tea.

Monday, 5 ............ Chicken patties#, sweet potato fries, mixed vegetables, salad, rye bread, tropical fruit salad, and tea.

Tuesday, 6 ............ Meal to be announced

Thursday, 8 ............ Chef’s choice of vegetable frittata**, mushroom soup, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, farmer’s loaf, pears, and tea.

Monday, 12 ............ Closed for Columbus Day

OBITUARIES, continued from previous page

as a child. She graduated from Stoughton High School in 1948, and served in the US Coast Guard Merchant Marine Company, his family’s furniture business in Lynn, MA, where he honed sales and financial skills, later becoming an investment advisor, from which he retired at age 83. Paul served on the board of the American Jewish Committee, representing the AJC as an American Ambassador to their ground-breaking Berlin, Germany conference. He also served as a board member at Temple Israel of Boston.

For the last 10 years, Paul enjoyed his expanding family, traveling, bridge, and reading. A history and politics buff, Paul happily conversed on worldwide events.

Paul is survived by his children: Lisa Newmann (Sandy Sanders) of Stockbridge; Stell Aronson Karp (Eric H. Karp) of Waban, MA; Michael Aronson (Rebecca Aronson) of Amherst; and Nancy Aronson of Arlington, MA. Grandchildren are Joshua, Dan, and Adam Karp (Rachel Bondy, Jeremy, Allegra, and Sage Aronson, Jeff, Lauren), and Jill Sanderson. Great-grandchildren are Henry, Leah, and Reid Sanderson. Paul also leaves his sister, Dorothy Karden (Donald Karden) of Philadelphia, as well as his companion, Maud Fischer, who shared with Paul a love for bridge, books, film, and history.

Paul proudly sported an anti-Trump pin on his clothing since November 2016, and will continue to wear that pin on his shroud into eternity. On the evening before he died, Paul R. Aronson gave one of his last smiles at the news that Joe Biden named Kamala Harris as his running mate. Donations may be made in Paul’s memory to a 2020 campaign or organization that helps unseat the current administration.

A private graveside service was held on Sunday, August 16 at Stockbridge Cemetery followed by Zoom shiva.

Knesset Israel 
16 Colt Road, Pittsfield
ONGOING MINYANS

Sunday 4:40 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Tuesday 7 p.m.
Thursday 3 p.m.
Friday 7 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.
Saturday 9:30 a.m. and evenings approximately 30 minutes before sunset

CANDLE-LIGHTING

Holiday candle-lighting times and Havdash (on page 8)

Friday, Sept 11 .......... 6:50 p.m.
Friday, Sept 18 .......... 6:38 p.m.
Friday, Sept 25 .......... 6:25 p.m.
Friday, Oct 2 .......... 6:13 p.m.
Friday, Oct 9 .......... 6:01 p.m.

Paul supported Make a Difference. Please visit our website www.jewishberkshires.org to sign up for our eblasts to receive a weekly listing of online opportunities.

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Traveling with Jewish Taste

Lost? and Found: The Jews of Nigeria

By Carol Goodman Kaufman

"But Ma, he’s Jewish!" That was the very catchy title of a program hosted by my Hadassah chapter in San Francisco. Unfortunately, I got stuck in traffic on the Oakland Bay Bridge and never got to hear the talk, but the idea that there were Jews other than the ones I had grown up with — white and mostly Ashkenazi — fascinated me.

Among the joys of travel is the opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty, cultural life, and unique foodways of these places. And when Joel and I travel, we always look for Jewish sites. But meeting new people in their home countries is the thing that can bring a trip over the top.

Now, just because we're not going further than the corner store these days, it doesn't mean we can't continue the global staycation that we started last month. This time, we'll continue our exploration of Jewish life in Africa.

After the Assyrian conquest of Israel in the 8th century BCE, the victors carried away many captives. But the rest of the ten tribes in the Northern Kingdom dispersed to “the four corners of the earth,” never to be heard from again. Never?

Over the millennia, numerous theories have circulated as to the fate of these Ten Lost Tribes, and at least a dozen communities around the world claim descent from these ancient Israelites. Whether the Assyrian Jews of Kurdistan, the B’nai Menashe in India, the Beta Israel of Ethiopia or the Kaifeng Jews of China, these groups may indeed be members of the lost tribes. And, why not?

After the Assyrian rout of Israel, one of the directions the refugees headed was southwest. Before there were nation states on the African continent, there were tribes, and it was into several of those tribes, in what is now Nigeria, that some exiled Jews assimilated, marrying and having children. The Yoruba Jews, numbering around 2,000, call themselves B’nai Ephraim (children of Ephraim), as they believe they are descended from the tribe of that name. And the Annang, Efik, and Bibiu peoples also have ancient religious practices similar to those in the Torah.

The largest group of Nigerian Jews is made up of members of the Igbo (pronounced ee-bo) tribe. While missionaries converted most of the Igbo tribe to Christianity in the 19th century, and a small minority became Muslim in the 20th, the proud Igbo Jews never forgot their origins. The intriguing documentary, Re-Emerging: The Jews of Nigeria, follows the Jews of the Igbo tribe and their dedication to the faith of their ancestors. In the course of the film, a couple of the Igbo Jews recall their parents telling them that they were descended from the tribe of that name. And the Amaang, Efik, and Bibiu peoples also have ancient religious practices similar to those in the Torah.

Support for their belief came from an unusual source. One Olaudah Equiano was an 18th century Igbo who had been captured and sold as a slave in the Caribbean. He ultimately won his freedom and settled in London, and in 1789, Equiano published his autobiography, in which he cited evidence that his tribe was descended from the Jews of Israel. He wrote:

The strong analogy which ... appears to prevail in the manners and customs of my countrymen and those of the Jews, before they reached the Land of Promise, and particularly the patriarchs while they were yet in that pastoral state which is described in Genesis – an analogy, which alone would induce me to think that the one people had sprung from the other.

Suya (Grilled Kebab with Spicy Peanut Rub)

Ingredients:
- 2 lb steak or London broil
- 1 cup dry roasted peanuts
- 1½ teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon onion powder
- 1 tablespoon white pepper
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¾ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 tablespoon onion powder
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon white pepper
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- (more if you really like heat)

Instructions:
1. Heat the oven to 450°F. Lightly spray or oil baking sheet or roasting pan.
2. In a medium bowl, mix the salt and spices together. Set aside.
3. Add the ground peanuts to the spice mixture.
4. Pulse the peanuts in a blender, food processor or coffee grinder until finely crushed — not to a paste!
5. Add the ground peanuts to the spice mixture.
6. Pat the meat dry with a paper towel.
7. Slice the meat, against the grain, into thin strips.
8. Add the meat to the spice mixture, coating completely.
9. Thread the skewers, dividing the meat evenly among them.
10. Line a roasting pan or baking sheet with foil, coat with vegetable spray, and place the skewers on it.
11. Roast for about 12-15 minutes.
12. Serve warm with a salad.

Carole Goodman Kaufman is a psychologist and author with a passion for travel and food. She is currently at work on a food history/cookbook, tracing the paths that some of our favorite foods have taken from their origins to appear on dinner plates and in cultural rites and artifacts around the world. She invites readers to read her blog at carolegoodmankaufman.com and to follow her on Twitter @goodmankaufman.
It all started innocently enough, as great adventures sometimes do. “Ever wonder what it’s like to be an actor?” read the teaser in the Congregation Ahavath Sholom newsletter. If so, it continued, join us on Sunday, April 7, 2010 when actor, director, playwright and Temple member, Linda Josephs, will peel back the curtain. So to speak.

Why not? thought I? I’ve always been interested in acting but have never done any since my role in “Convenient Modern Times,” a student written play at PS 233 in Brooklyn when I was in the sixth grade.

So, I joined about a dozen other intrepid souls that sunny day to sit with Linda Josephs and take some tentative, awkward, very self-conscious steps into the world of the “actor.”

Over the ensuing year and a half, our group of twelve slowly whittled itself down to three: Ellen Axelrod, Barbara Janoff, and me. Understandably, some people found the classes simply not for them. Others said they found it too challenging. Some simply didn’t have the time.

And what have we three survivors accomplished during that time?

Well, so much more than we could have ever anticipated. We met at least once and sometimes twice a week in the pre-COVID world and by Zoom after. We learned how to let our movements and how we speak develop organically. We took joy in watching the growth of our fellow actors with whom we now enjoy a personal and special bond. We played such diverse roles as Shylock, a Catholic priest, a schoolteacher/astronaut and even a desperate woman holding on to a phone booth in New Mexico. We learned to listen to and learn from each other. We also learned how to listen to and learn from Linda’s seemingly constant prodding and criticism without being defensive (at least most of the time). And we really laughed a lot and, despite all the hard work, had so much fun it was almost illegal.

A word about our remarkable director and friend, Linda. We are unanimous that what has made all of this hard work so worthwhile and, candidly, transformative, has been Linda’s treatment of us as professionals and her tireless efforts to help us develop our skills as fledgling actors. Words like “relentless,” “demanding,” “uncompromising,” and “creative,” seem to fit. The more she has asked, the more we have wanted to give. The more she has said, “Good. Good. Now try it this way,” the more we have smiled, taken a deep breath, and tried to deliver our lines in the seemingly endless variations she has devised. Linda has worked so hard, with such constant good humor, and her expectations of us are so high, that none of us wants to let her down or fail to put everything we have into our work. I know that all of us are beyond grateful to her for her dedication and confidence in us. It is no wonder that our classes are consistently among the best hours of our week.

So, why not join us as we make our virtual “stage” debut on September 6 at 2 p.m.? We hope that you’ll be impressed by what you see and the quite diverse roles we’ve developed over the past year and a half.

And maybe, when we start our next class sometime in the fall (we hope), you’ll be tempted to join our intrepid band of brothers and sisters. We promise to welcome you with open arms (socially distant, of course, if still necessary). Congregation Ahavath Sholom and The CAS Theatre Group will stage vignettes from “Hold Me,” by Jules Feiffer and monologues from “Zara Speaks and Other Lures,” by Joan Ackermann, “Defying Gravity,” by Jane Anderson, “The Merchant of Venice,” by William Shakespeare, and “Doubt,” by John Patrick Shanley.

Tune in on the CAS website (www.ahavathsholom.ahavathsholom.org) Sunday, September 6 at 2 p.m.

What matters to us goes beyond numbers and benchmarks. We believe working in your best interests becomes the foundation for how we nurture our professional relationship.

Learn more. Have a conversation with our managing director, Gary Schiff, and his team at October Mountain Financial Advisors.

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*Banking & trust administration services provided by Lee Bank, St. Germain Investment Management operates as October Mountain Financial Advisors in the Berkshires.
MICROFINANCE, continued from page 1

financing. Some 200 million people now receive support from microfinance institutions, with most of the recent growth being driven by technological innovation. In the beginning, much of the microfinance industry was operated by religious and governmental organizations, but today the majority of these institutions are not religious and are regulated by governments and/or commercial banks. Many of these banks, such as Citibank and Chase, offer microfinance products to customers.

In their program, DiLeo and Lieberman explain the development of microfinance, explaining its role in the world-wide financial market, and explore its future in a world economy changed by technology and the pressures of coping with the coronavirus pandemic.

Paul DiLeo is the founder of Grassroots Capital Management, which focuses on development finance and has worked in several countries, including Ghana, Uganda, and Tanzania. He has worked extensively in Nigeria, and has served as the chief investment officer at the Reserve Bank of New York.

Lieberman is the founding director of the CGAP Secretariat, the de facto administrative office of the microfinance sector. His book, Good Times Prepare for Crisis, is a assessment of microfinance and the reasons why nations, in good times, don’t really do enough to prepare for the next crisis.

Both have homes in the Berkshires, and are speaking in August with the BJV about microfinance and the future of microfinance institutions.

In their program, DiLeo and Lieberman discuss how, in the past decade, microfinance has been assisted by the Harvard Institute of Development and became predominant in the world of business. They have also pointed out the potential for building savings from the poor throughout Indonesia. They have pointed out that the poor need working capital to support their businesses, but also the role of microfinance in the global economy. Today, microfinance is all over the developing world and every-where in the developed world – meaning the former socialist countries, particularly in the poorer parts of Eastern Europe. It’s very big in China, and that’s driven by technology to a great degree, and it’s rising very strongly in India hopefully not quite as badly by the current crisis.

BJV: As I read your description, it seems as if microfinance institutions as originally conceived operated more like NGOs and could not operate without subsidies. What changed? Lieberman: Almost all the microfinance institutions were NGOs when they started. The CGAP then over a 10-year period from 1995 to 2005, mandated all the larger institutions converted to become commercial banks operating as microfinance institutions. My hope was that mothers would always tell you “at least the kids are being educated.” And so I took it as a next generation issue – meaning the people who are borrowing and lending at small businesses today are not the current or the previous generation, but are not going into deep poverty. It’s the next generation educated on the back of microfinance loans and savings that are going to take care of our parents and grandparents if they immigrated from Eastern Europe. This is my own view which is not necessarily widely espoused but I think we’re going to see successive generations coming up and benefiting greatly.

Paul DiLeo: There is a fair amount of recent research that seems to show that if you take the microfinance clients the impact on poverty and wealth accumu-lation, you know, the poor people have cooper- atives (mainly in West Africa) you have commercial banks and you have credit unions. So there are a wide number of institutional sources, but the commercial banks who also mobilize savings are the dominant institutions in terms of loan volume and assets held.

Most of the microfinance institutions started that way and even if they converted to banks, they mostly do small business lending. But they also have provided diversified products like housing rehabilitation and education. They have conducted insurance carriers to do micro-insurance – that was very big in Africa when AIDS was so prevalent. Insurance was financing both materials or used against people’s deaths if they had loans. My hope, my expec- tations were that the diversity of products would grow signifi- cantly. They haven’t become that significant as a percentage of the portfolio, but they became meaningful in the sense that it gives people some other financial products to draw down when necessary.

Lieberman explained pretty much for everybody. And it’s one reason that I think so many people can use in managing what turns out to be very complex lives – the complexity of diseases; and so that benefit seems to apply to everybody. But in terms of poverty alleviation and wealth accumulation, the benefits there seem to be concentrated on a very different set of clients and so a lot of the work now is focused on targeting the financial products offered by microfinance institutions to those clients who would benefit.

BJV: How do politics figure into the microfinance world and what kinds of political problems might be applied to people making decisions within the industry? DiLeo: There were some very dramatic episodes, like in Nicaragua or in the state of Andrade Pradesh in India, where microfinance started to be used as a political issue. And you can imagine that for a politician trying to generate headlines or trying to capture a more heterogeneous populist good will saying that they are going to forgive all debts or cap terms of payment or make for a nice headline.

I suppose that’s always sort of a background threat, that a politician will pick up on that and try to run with it, and the consequences can be very damaging. But I think on a more sort of universal level, the interplay of politics has followed the trajectory of technology to a great degree. I think it really fell below the radar. Nobody really took it very seriously.

When it really started to gain scale and demonstrate that it could be done on a prof- itable self-sustaining basis, the world’s politicians and regulators have recognized that microfinance is an important part of the financial systems in most countries. In some countries it’s a very important part of the financial system where microfinance started to be very damaging. But I think on a more sort of universal level, the interplay of politics has followed the trajectory of technology to a great degree. I think it really fell below the radar. Nobody really took it very seriously.

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I was surprised at how vigorously they argued that the essential value of their institutions lay in the human relationships with the clients. They felt without exception that they have to preserve that if their institutions were to have any future. The last factor I would mention is that digital technologies affect different types of clients. Young urban clients tend to take to digital technologies very quickly and to appreciate the convenience and take full advantage, whereas at the other end of the spectrum, older rural women can be excluded if these technologies supplant the more traditional channels of relationship.

The Future of Microfinance (Edited by Ira W. Lieberman, Paul DiLeo, Todd A. Watkins, and Anna Kaunz) is available through the Brookings Institution website at Lehigh University among thirty-four leaders in the industry. The editors, working with contributions from more than a dozen leading authorities in the field, tell the important story of how microfinance developed, how it has met the needs of hundreds of millions of people, and they address key questions about how it can continue to meet those needs in the future.

**MAZEL TOV**

**Ike Brower** on her 95th birthday

**Jared Benzel** on his bar mitzvah

**Alan Cohen** on his 80th birthday

**Arlene Schiff**, national director of the LIFE A LEGACY program for The Hadassah Grinspoon Foundation, on the program’s milestone of achieving more than $1 billion in legacy commitments (see related story on page 10)

**Ellen Masters** on her 79th birthday

**Barbara and Gerald Hayden** on their 60th wedding anniversary

**Loretta and Joel Prives** on the birth of their granddaughter, Annabell James

**Marcie and Richie Simon** on the birth of their grandson, Amittal Dov

**Charlie Raser** on his bar mitzvah at Knesset Israel

**Matt Tannenbaum**, who raised $100,000+ in a GoFundMe drive to save The Bookstore in Lenox

**Josh Landes**, WAMC’s Berkshire bureau chief, not only on being awarded first place in “spot announcing” by The New York State Associated Press Association, but on getting engaged to Allison Lerman. Back – mazel tov too to parents Brenda and Fred Landes

**Roy and Leslie Koury** on the birth of their granddaughter, Noa Yael

**Phoebe and Don Sugarman** on the birth of their grandson

**Parker Wright** on her bat mitzvah at Knesset Israel

**Sergey and Natalya Yantovsky** on the marriage of their son, Ilya, to Kelsey Cruikshank

**Gabe Dahari** on his bar mitzvah at Knesset Israel

**Berkshire Jewish Voice**

Elul 5780/Tishri 5781

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**MAR-SEK**

Offers effective Sunday, August 30 thru Saturday, October 3, 2020 in all Market 32, Price Chopper and Market Bistro stores located in CT, MA, NH, NY, PA & VT. Not all items are available in all stores.
CULTURE AND ARTS

Yiddish a Dying Language? Not if Daniel Klein has Anything to Say About It

And he does – his new book, *SchmeGoogle*, offers a new Yiddish vocabulary for our challenging times

This autumn, Great Barrington’s Daniel Klein is releasing his latest book, *SchmeGoogle*, which collects Yiddish neologisms he’s come up with that describe social constructs, technological challenges, psychic conundrums, and personality disorders that would have been unknown to the world of our fathers.

A “schmegoogle,” by the way, is defined as: “A person so insignificant, that when you Google their name, nothing comes up.”

In August, Klein and BJV editor Albert Stern exchanged emails about the new book that also drew on some of Klein’s earlier books – which have variously used jokes to explain philosophy, philosophy to explain jokes, and philosophy and jokes to explore politics and spiritual ideas – to address this strange spasm of history we’re living through.

*SchmeGoogle* (Chronicle Books) is available at bookstores and through amazon.com.

Berkshire Jewish Voice: Can you share a new term from SchmeGoogle that might be particularly resonant given the situation in which we find ourselves during this time of pandemic, stay-at-home orders, political dysfunction, fake news, social media screeds, etc. etc.

Daniel Klein: “**Polischmerz**”: n. The quality of having a dismal or depressing view of the national or world political situation. Which just about everybody has these days. [From the Yiddish word *schmerz*, meaning pain. Used in a sentence: ‘Rachel has such a case of *polischmerz*; she just sits and watches videos of cartoon bears all day on her phone.]”

BJV: At the Berkshire Jewish Voice, we’ve started to come up with a few Yiddish neologisms of our own about the times we are living in. My entry is, “**Maskeit**”: a person who advocates for the continued wearing of masks in public not so much to control the virus, but because they’re homely.” Our friend Alex Rosenblum came up with “**Hock mir nisht keyn China**”: Disputing the president’s claim that the virus emanating from Wuhan was a Communist plot to disrupt the world order,” and “**Bubbe-maskes**”: An old wives’ tale that covering your mouth will do any good.” Anything you can add?

DK: I adore the new Yiddish words you and your colleague have come up with. It really could be fun to encourage your readers to add more new terms.[** See next page**].

Psychologists and amateur psychologists (that would be everybody else), love to dissect Trump’s personality, coming to the early conclusion that he suffers from Narcissistic Personality Disorder. But lately these analysts have taken comfort in the fact that he is also incompetent, the result of being driven by self-defeating impulses.

A moth goes to an ophthalmologist’s office. The ophthalmologist asks him how he can be of help. And the moth says, “My life is a mess. I keep making one bad decision after another and then suffering the consequences.”

The ophthalmologist says, “I’m so sorry, Moth. But what you need is a psychotherapist, not an ophthalmologist. Why did you come to me?”

And the moth says, “Because your light was on.”

The M-in-C has been known to go to great lengths to demonstrate his very, very excellent intelligence and talents. But often his demonstrations lack a certain logic.

Max and Izzy go to Carnegie Hall to hear the famous tenor, Lauritz Melchior.

Max says, “He’s magnificent!”

Izzy shrugs and says, “If I had his voice, I’d be just as good.”

BJV: The subtitle of your 2015 book *Every Time I Find the Meaning of Life, They Change It* is “Wisdom of the Great Philosophers on How to Live.” Which of the great philosophers might have the most to say to us about living through the particular situation we are in, and what would be his or her message?

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EQUIP

Greylock set me up with a back to school loan to take care of the stuff that comes up fast when September rolls around.

It’s nice to know I have a way to get the kids what they need to succeed this year.

**Back to School Loan**

**7.99% APR**

12-month term

$2,000 maximum

*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. $500 minimum / $2,000 maximum.*
And G-d responds, “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth, serve such misery?"

The majority of modern philosophers beg to differ. They believe we have free will and hence are responsible for what happens in the world. Oy. It’s enough to make a person wish he were an impotent schlemiel. With a free will, we have to get off our tushes and take responsibility for getting this virus under control, stop the emissions that our poisoning our atmosphere, risk our lives to fight against racism and fascism. All of this with only one day of rest per week and last week’s tzimmes on the table.

Tests him. But why? What has Job done to deserve something supernatural is going on. That the gods are angry with mankind. But why, pray tell?

The pandemic and consequently being shut in has caused many people to become increasingly self-reflective, taking stock of their lives. The most compelling words I’ve heard about this comes from the great philosopher, Woody Allen: “My only regret is that I wasn’t somebody else.”

Personally, I have never taken the Old Testament more literally than I do recently. Like the Book of Job, where one calamity after another befalls the poor schlub, as Satan pushes Job’s divine faith to the limits. We find ourselves?

DK: The German cosmologist, George W. F. Hegel, believed that history unfolded by the dialectical forces of a World Spirit – first that of a Thesis, which is then countered by an Anti-thesis, which is then brought together in a Synthesis that becomes the new Thesis in this ever-evolving progression. This is Big Picture stuff. These forces transcend us puny people, who don’t even live very long anyhow. What do a man’s good or bad intentions play in this Big Picture? Bupkis. So forget about taking blame (or credit) for the mishiga’as that’s happening all around us. Schlemiels don’t count, and we are all schlemiels.

Maybe Noah’s Ark gives a more comprehensive account of an angry god who is fed up with mankind’s sins and follies, so decides to wipe out mankind with a momentous flood, leaving only wise old Noah, his wife and children, plus pairs of animals, to start civilization all over again. This story can be read as G-d giving man one last shot at getting it right. A fresh start, two by two, off you go. The pressure is on.

We hope that Yiddishly-minded readers will take up Daniel Klein’s challenge and come up with some new Yiddish terms that might describe aspects of the situation we find ourselves in the year 2020. Email your new Yiddish words or phrases to aster@jewishberkshires.org. The winner will be chosen by Daniel Klein and will receive a copy of SchmeGoogle, which, after a 14-day quarantine, will be signed by the author (who will be wearing a mask and has his hands and pen sanitized), and then be seal-wrapped and left on your doorstep by a probably COVID-free member of the BJV staff. Notable entries will appear in a future issue of the BJV.

** It’s a Contest! **

L’shana tova!

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We look forward to welcoming Religious School families, returning and new, to explore with us as we embark on an exciting new adventure!

Hevreh’s Religious School offers experiential educational opportunities for families with children 3-18 and accommodates first-time students at all levels.

Questions? Contact our Education Director, Rabbi Jodie Gordon at jgordon@hevreh.org.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 AT 10:30 AM First Day of Rosh Hashanah

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 AT 9 AM Rosh Hashanah Family Service

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 AT 10:30 AM Torah Study

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 AT 7:30 PM Neilah

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 AT 7:30 PM Kol Nidre

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 AT 9 AM Yom Kippur Family Service

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 AT 10:30 AM Yom Kippur Morning Service

3:30 PM Yitzkor

5 PM Neileh
A Full-Time Surgeon in Russia whose Only Job is as a Mohel

By Cnaan Liphshiz / JTA

(JTA) — The religious Jewish world has created some unusual jobs, from shofar blowers to etrog pickers to mashgiyot — kosher certifiers whose job is literally to watch others cook.

But one of the oddest surely belongs to Dr. Yeshaya Shafit, who is Russia’s only mohel, or professional circumciser, for adult men.

Shafit, a 56-year-old surgeon, travels across that vast country to circumcise about 10 Jewish, adult patients a week, splitting his time between Russia and the United States. Jewish ritual circumcision, called a bris or brit milah, is typically performed on 8-day-old babies, as dictated by Jewish law. Adult circumcision is common for Orthodox converts to the religion and others who become more religious later in life.

In Russia, the adult demand is very high because many Jewish men were denied the procedure during the time of the communist Soviet Union, when Jewish religious practice was effectively outlawed. Throughout the country, circumcision was not allowed unless it was required by a medical condition.

Russia’s chief rabbi, Berel Lazar, a Chabad-Lubavitch leader who grew up in Italy and settled in Russia in 1987, remembers a time in his new land when performing a bris required being part of an illegal conspiracy.

“There was a clandestine underground. You’d show up at a designated time, get picked up in a car, blindfolded and taken to an apartment in Moscow where the mohel would wait,” said Lazar, who helped facilitate many of these procedures.

The blindfold was to prevent men who were circumcised from later divulging, willingly or otherwise, the location and identity of those who helped circumcise them, the rabbi explained.

The conditions “were not great for surgeries,” Lazar said, “yet dozens of people asked to be circumcised.”

Fortunately, “nothing had happened during those clandestine betrots,” he added. But as soon as the Soviet Union fell, “it was clear that we needed to improve conditions, and that included hiring an experienced, talented and motivated surgeon for this position.”

The procedure is much more complicated for adults, requiring a skilled surgeon who is qualified to administer anesthesia and perform medical interventions if complications arise. At least four doctors perform infant circumcisions are often not doctors.

So Lazar hired Shafit, a Russian native who moved to Israel in the 1980s, in 1990. Shafit spent time as a hand surgeon at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, but returned to Russia to work under Lazar and as a representative of the Brit Yosef Vitzchak charity, an international organization affiliated with Chabad. Founded in 1989, the group facilitates free circumcisions for Jews around the world.

Before the fall of the Berlin wall, Shafit would perform the circumcisions during vacations. It’s a tough job involving much travel and time away from his wife and two children living in Philadelphia, he said. (His family had moved there about a decade ago in connection with the higher education of his children.)

Now Lazar’s Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia, a nonprofit that is the main organization in that country’s Jewish community of about 250,000, keeps a permanent clinic for circumcision in Moscow, where most Russian Jews live.

But Russia, whose land area is nearly twice that of the United States, has many far-flung Jewish communities, including in Kaliningrad in Russia’s far west and Vladivostok, opposite the Japanese shoreline.

His travel expenses are covered by Chabad emissaries who invite him over to perform operations or by Lazar’s office. And Shafit sees the work as a worthy cause.

“It’s like a vaccine for a person’s sense of identity,” he said. “Once you do it, you will never forget who he is.”

Shafit has circumcised at least 7,000 Russian men since entering his post, with the procedures conducted at clinics and hospitals. Rabbis in each city — typically emissaries for the Orthodox Chabad movement, the largest organized Jewish group in Russia — line up several candidates.

Other times Shafit uses more unusual settings: apartments, synagogue back rooms or even a rabbi’s office.

For the more remote communities without a devoted clinic, Shafit came up with a cheap and hygienic solution: foldable massage tables.

“Economic, easily stowed, designed to be cleaned to sterility. Huge improvement,” he added. “I’m supposed to live, I still needed to do the actual pact in my mind and my soul,” Chernovol said. “But to move on and live the way I’m supposed to live, I still needed to do the actual ritual.”

Getting off Shafit’s operating table was “a great relief, like a weight had been lifted and an obstacle has been cleared,” he added.

“The circumcision demand is a symbol to how Russian Jews are connected to Judaism even after decades of repression,” Lazar said, “and the sacrifices they’re willing to make to establish that connection.”

The waiting was “devastating,” Chernovol said with tears in his eyes during a recent video interview.

His chosen date was the 100th anniversary of the death of the fifth spiritual leader of Chabad, Sholom DovBer Schneersohn, who died in Rostov. Two other members of the congregation were supposed to be circumcised at the end of an event commemorating Schneersohn’s passing.

Shafit finally made it to Rostov, where he circumcised Chernovol and the two others on July 27.

To Chernovol, the sense of urgency stemmed from the Hebrew-language meaning of the term brit milah — its literal translation is “pact of circumcision.”

“For all of us, it’s a pact in my mind and my soul,” Chernovol said. “But to move on and live the way I’m supposed to live, I still needed to do the actual ritual.”

The “circumcision demand” is a symbol to how Russian Jews are connected to Judaism even after decades of repression,” Lazar said, “and the sacrifices they’re willing to make to establish that connection.”

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